



Chairman Mark E. Green, MD

CHARGE & RESPONSE: DEBUNKING THE LIES OF THE LEFT

1

CHARGE : Most fentanyl comes into the U.S. through ports of entry (POEs).

RESPONSE: Ports of entry (POEs) are a controlled environment in which every vehicle is stopped and CBP can schedule how many vehicles pass through the secure entrance every day. In the field, Border Patrol doesn't have the same luxury to "schedule" illegal activity. The cartels have mastered distraction maneuvers, where they send a large group of illegal aliens across to tie up Border Patrol as they send drugs across the border.

In 2020 and 2021, POEs were shut down except for essential travel, so CBP was dealing with a third of normal traffic and drug seizures at ports of entry were down. However, in the field, the Border Patrol was setting records for apprehensions and there was more fentanyl on the streets of America than ever before as the street price for the deadly drug dramatically decreased—making it clear that fentanyl was coming into the country between POEs. You don't get a record number of drug overdose deaths in the same year as ports of entry are largely closed without more drugs crossing between ports of entry. It's just common sense.

2

CHARGE: The reason so much fentanyl is coming into the country is because Americans are demanding it. If Americans stop the demand, then cartels will stop smuggling it into the country.

RESPONSE: Most deaths from fentanyl are accidental due to fentanyl poisoning, meaning that an individual takes prescriptions drugs that end up being laced with fentanyl. Those who have been murdered with fentanyl are not taking fentanyl pills recreationally because of the intense potency.

3

CHARGE: January illegal encounter numbers were down so the Biden administration's policies must be working.

RESPONSE: False. January encounters at the Southwest border are almost always historically lower than other months of the year. However, FY23 January numbers were higher than FY22 January encounters and nearly 50% higher than FY21 January encounters, so the trend shows a continued increase year over year. Additionally, over several weeks in the Del Rio sector last month, 40% of the individuals crossing the border were successful in evading Border Patrol, making them known gotaways that would not be included in the monthly migrant encounter number. There is little confidence that this public January encounter number is accurate.

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CHARGE: The DOJ/DHS asylum rule will prevent illegal crossings at the border by incentivizing lawful immigration.

RESPONSE: This policy is a farse and is essentially expediated catch and release. By utilizing the CBP One app, this will ultimately become just a speedy way for DHS to grant illegal aliens from these countries parole. These illegal aliens are then released into the interior and as President Obama said they become lost “in the shadows of society.” If Secretary Mayorkas ended catch and release at the Southwest border, we could end this crisis at the border. CBP could go after the cartels and criminal organizations which they have the resources to do.

5

CHARGE: The solution to Biden and Mayorkas’ crisis at the Southwest could be solved simply by just adding more personnel to manage the migrant influx.

RESPONSE: This border crisis could end tomorrow but the Biden administration and Democrats love the chaos because it’s what their base wants to see. The border crisis and the record-breaking influx is a direct result of President Biden’s posture and removal of key border policies during his first 100 days in office. Without a change in policy and if resources aren’t going to the right places this solution will only serve as a band-aid on a gushing wound.

Bottom line: On January 2021, the CBP budget didn’t suddenly decrease, and the personnel numbers didn’t suddenly go down. What caused the highest illegal encounter numbers ever in history—more than the previous two administrations combined—was the removal of 89 policies that were keeping people from illegally crossing the border and now providing the opportunity for drug cartels to take advantage and flood the border with illegal aliens and drugs. Border Patrol does need adequate resources, but if agents weren’t tasked with managing on average an upwards of 8,000 encounters per day (based on December 2023 data), they would be in a much stronger position to secure the border. Jeh Johnson, Obama’s DHS Secretary, said 1,000 crossings per day was “a bad number” and when operational control was lost at the border.

This is not a money or people problem. This is a policy problem.



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CHARGE: Republicans voted against funding for Customs & Border Protection (CBP) in the omnibus last Congress.

RESPONSE: The FY23 Omnibus bill was a partisan monstrosity resulting from one-party rule in Washington. Democrats jammed through this \$1.7 trillion funding bill in late December with no serious focus on resources to deter illegal immigration or secure the border. The bill provided CBP \$1.6 billion for “border management requirements” to maintain the chaotic status quo at the border, and \$340 million for ICE for “non-detention border management requirements.”

The bill specified that the funds could not be used “to acquire, maintain, or extend border security technology and capabilities, except for technology and capabilities to improve Border Patrol processing.” Forcing law enforcement personnel to process illegal immigrants quicker into the interior of the United States is the farthest thing from investing in border security. True border security investment requires people, technology, and physical barriers, accompanied by effective policies that ensure consequences and deterrence. Homeland Republicans are focused on those solutions.